banking sector should not be brought under CAG audit because CAG audit was primarily rule bound and banking activity necessarily involved as a measure of discretion. There is also no weigh in the argument that the nationalised banks and financial institution., would be discriminated against vis-a-vis the foreign banks, since the latter would be outside the purview of CAG audit. This Committee, therefore, recommends that the audit of the nationalised banks and other financial institutions which are Government owned or Government controlled should be brought under the control of C&AG who shoould select and appoint Statutoty Auditors and carry out a supplementary audit through its own officers just as is done in the case of Government companies and other public sector undertakings. Bringing the banks under the CAG audit would ensure that a vital component of the economy is not left outside the purview of CAG's jurisdiction. This would also go a long way in restoring public confidence and credibility of the banks and other financial institution".

(c) The matter is still under examination of the Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India.

Decline in Gross National Product

856. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his been attention has drawn to the news item appeared in The Hindustan Times' dated 31st December, 1993 stating that Indian Gross National Product (GNP) has dropped for a second year;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1990 India's GNP was 360 dollars per-capita and in 1992 it dipped to 203 dollars;

(c) whether it is lowest as compared to any other developing country and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (DR. 'ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) This refers to a news item based on statistics contained in World Bank Atlas: 1994 released by the World Bank. As per the said publication, India's Gross National Product (GNP) per-capita was US dollars 310 in 1992 compared with US dollars 330 in 1991 and is not the lowest as compared to any other developing country.

Reduction in Customs Duty on Printing Machines

857. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Finance has received a Memorandum from the Indian Newspaper Society as a Pre-Budget Memorandum 1994-95;

(b) whether the Society has asked for decontrol and deregulation of the News print;

(c) whether the Newspaper Industry has submitted that the public sector/joint sector newsprint manufacturers are inefficient in their functioning and therefore they are unable to meet the requirement of the industry;

(d) whether the INS has also asked for reduction in customs duty of printing machinery spares and consumables; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) They have asked for decontrol of newsprint by rescinding newsprint control order, 1962.

(c) It has been stated in the representation that newspaper industry is being made to pay for the inefficiencies of Public/Joint sector newsprint mills. They have also stated that 67% of the news-print requirement has to be met from the Public/Joint sector newsprint mills.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The suggestions given by them have been considered as a part of pre-budget exercise of examination of representations received from various chambers of trade and industry. Action, if any, on these suggestions is reflected in the proposals for the 1994-95 budget.

Undue protection to indigenous Newsprint-Manufacturers

858. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society has submitted a Pre-Budget Memorandum;

(b) if so, whether the Society has protested that the indigenous newsprint manufacturers are being given undue protection under the Newsprint Control Order, 1962;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of the indigenous newsprint has been rising; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In terms of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), there is practically no change in the prices of newsprint since July, 1991.

(d) The suggesstions made by a society or associations and individuals are examined by the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government and these suggestions are kept in view while formulating Governments's economic policies.

Buy-Back Scheme of U.T.I.

859. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Unit Trust of India has decided to buy-back the units under its various listed schemes from the market whenever such units are quoted at 10 per cent or more discount to their net asset value;

(b) details of units that are being quoted at 10 per cent or more below their net asset value; and

(c) details of the scheme that the Ministry may have approved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has decided to buy-back units of its listed schemes from the market, which are quoted at least 10 per cent below their Net Asset Values (NAVs) to help market prices of units rise closer to their NAVs. The buy-back is limited to 25 per cent of the unit capital issued under any scheme in any one financial year.

(b) Details regarding units of listed schemes which are being quoted at 10 per